Environmental considerations are taken into account in the planning of new settlements and in the growth of existing settlements, as far as posible. Guidelines for the development of new towns and contonments have been issued .

5. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

5.1 *Recommendation*: A National Environmental Policy Resolution be adopted.

Action taken: A National Envirmental Policy Resolution has not been adopted. However, the various legislations for environmental protection are in consonance with the principles contained in the draft resolution suggested by the Committee.

5.2 *Recommendation*: Existing legislations be reviewed and strengthened.

Action taken: The existing laws have been reviewed. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are being amended comprehensively. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended to regulate trade in ivory, to totally ban dealings in specified animals and articles made therefrom and to enhance penalties for offenders. Amendments have been made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1951 to ensure ecologically sound management of mining areas. A revised National Forest Policy is under consideration of the Government and amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 will be considered after the proposed revision. The Factories Act has been reviewed and amended. Amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act and Motor Vehicles Act are being considered

5.3 *Recommendation*: New lelgislation be enacted in areas of relevance.

Action taken: The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was enacted and comprehensive amendments have been made in the Act in 1987 to make it more effective. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 enables the protection of environment in a comprehensive manner. Based on guidelines and a model bil circulated by the Central Government, six State Governments have enacted suitable legislation to prevent over-fishing in coastal waters.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Import of Palm Oil by STC

3417. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation has contracted for import of palm oil from Malaysia on "CIF" basis instead of "FOB":

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above Indian Shipping lines are losing freight to other flag vessels; and

(c) if so the reasons for STC's preferring "CIF" clause to "FOB"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Presently, STC is importing palm oil from Malaysia on CIF basis. STC has, however, been trying to utilise Indian bottoms to the extent available from time to time, to competitive raest. Between the period January, 1986 to July 1987 Indian flag vessels have been utilised for about 37 voyages representing 30 per cent of the carriage of palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia to India.

STC has been asked to explore possibilities of FOB imports, keeping in view the fact that edible oil being a sensitive item of mass human consumption has to be made available as per the programme given by the Government.